UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Charlotte, North Carolina
March 22, 1977

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

On January 28, 1977, Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE, Eye Surgeon, 911 North Broad Street, Durham, North Carolina, who also operates Moore Publishing Company, 907 North Broad Street, reported receipt of a telephone contact on January 27, 1977, from OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, telephone number 780-4533, offering GRACE an opportunity to publish a book by MOORE. MOORE identified himself as a retired United States Army Master Sergeant. He stated in his book, he identified the assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination. MOORE, during his telephone call, claimed to have previously reported this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and said KELLEY had assigned him a file number. MOORE stated he was in contact with other prospective publishers. He also claimed correspondence with United States Senators FRANK CHURCH and EDWARD KENNEDY. During his call, MOORE said he felt his life was in danger.

GRACE indicated there was a possibility he would be back in contact with OTIS MOORE about January 30, 1977, concerning publication of the book referred to by MOORE.

On March 17, 1977, Dr. GRACE advised he had not had any contact with OTIS MOORE during the latter part of January or early February, as previously proposed. However, since GRACE had returned to Durham, North Carolina, in mid-February, 1977, MOORE had contacted GRACE's residence at Durham, North Carolina, on two occasions. During one of these calls during the latter part of February, 1977, MOORE told GRACE's wife he was staying in Alexandria, Virginia, and was trying to arrange for an appearance before the United States House Committee conducting investigation into the death of

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR AGENCY; IT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MARTIN LUTHER KING. He indicated his intention to stay in the Washington area until someone heard his story. He left a telephone number for GRACE to reach him in Alexandria, but later when GRACE called this number, he determined that the number was to a pay telephone and that MOORE was not available there. During the other telephone contact at about the same time, MOORE stated that he was currently preparing the manuscript for his book. GRACE indicated a desire to see this manuscript when it was completed. Since that call, GRACE has written to MOORE in Puerto Rico to indicate again an interest in seeing the completed manuscript. MOORE, in his conversations, again indicated he had corresponded with Senator FRANK CHURCH and Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. GRACE stated since that time he has had no additional contact with MOORE, and noted that he had never had any personal contact with MOORE, nor had MOORE indicated any intention of visiting GRACE in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. GRACE did not know if MOORE appeared before the House Committee in 1977.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

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Dr. GRACE did not know if MOORE appeared before the House Committee in 1977.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 3/30/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL - REGISTERED
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

ReBHairtel, 3/21/77.

On 3/30/77, Major EMMETT DIXON, Alabama Highway Patrol (AHP), Montgomery, Alabama, advised that an AHP trooper had an informant who had been in contact with a MORRIS DAVIS, Birmingham, Alabama. DAVIS related information to the informant concerning a conspiracy to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING which involved FRANK LIBERTO and DR. GUS PROSCH. DAVIS indicated to the trooper's informant that the information had been related to the FBI, but apparently no action was taken.

Major DIXON was advised that the Birmingham Office had been in contact with MORRIS DAVIS on several occasions, had taken all information in the possession of DAVIS, and had furnished this information to FBIHQ and interested offices. DIXON was advised that Birmingham is positive that the FBIHQ had furnished DAVIS' information to interested congressional committees, as DAVIS had stated that a representative of the House of Representatives Committee had been in contact with him.

The above is set forth for information of FBIHQ and Mobile. As Birmingham has had numerous contacts with DAVIS, he will not be contacted at this time; however, Birmingham will continue to disseminate any pertinent information volunteered by DAVIS.

ST-106
REC-7

44-38861-6205

22 APR 1 1977

2 - Bureau
1 - Mobile (Info)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
1 - New Orleans (Info)
1 - Birmingham
ALB:hss
(6)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

84 APR 11 1977

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
[illegible] INVESTIGATIVE

[illegible] 97 AM '77

[illegible] OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 3/30/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/20/77, Bureau teletype to Louisville dated 3/26/77, Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/27/77, Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/29/77 and Bureau telephone call to Louisville, 3/30/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are ten (10) copies of self-explanatory LHM setting forth details concerning recent reported allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, that he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., inclusive of local newspaper articles relating to same and unsuccessful attempt to interview CLIFTON E. BAIRD.

Enclosed for Memphis are two (2) copies of above described LHM, which contains summary of all information developed to date concerning instant aspect of captioned matter.

It is noted that Louisville Division indices contain only single reference to "CLIFTON EUGENE BAIRD, Officer, Louisville Police Department" (LS 44-474), which file was destroyed on 2/28/77. No information is contained in Louisville Division files substantiating BAIRD's allegation on 3/29/77 that he has received numerous threats from the FBI over the last ten years.

Copy of enclosed LHM being disseminated locally to U. S. Attorney, Louisville, Kentucky.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 10)
2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)
2 - Louisville
EVA/scs
(6)

ENCLOSURE ST-106 REC-7 44-38861-6206

1 - Criminal Division
1 - Civil Rights Division
1 - Office of Professional Responsibility
1 - Congressional Inquiry Unit
0-70 (6) 4-4-77
HNA 1 dhp.
see file copy

APR 5 1977

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

84 APR 11 1977

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

GE[illegible] [illegible]STIGATIVE
[illegible] J.E.H.

APR 2 11 02 [illegible] '77

F. B. I.
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F B I

APR 4 8 38 AM 1977

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

TELETYPE

PRIORITY

CLEAR

3/25/77

FM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

TO LOUISVILLE

BT

C L E A R

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Ingram
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. [redacted]
1 - Mr. Lawn
1 - External Affairs

RE YOUR FACSIMILLE DATED MARCH 23, 1977, AND BUTELCAL MARCH 25, 1977.

ON MARCH 25, 1977, ROBERT L. KEUCH, DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE DEPARTMENT IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS, ADVISED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS AUTHORIZED THE INTERVIEW OF CLIFTON E. BAIRD BY THE FBI, IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA) LOUISVILLE, CONCERNING ALL DETAILS OF HIS RECENT REPORTED ALLEGATION THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM FBI AGENTS AND POLICE OFFICERS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

REC-62
ST-101

-6207

HNH:nlc (9)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2. ..

23 MAR 30 1977

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Ext. Affairs
Fin. & Pers.
Gen. Inv.
Ident.
Inspection
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Eval.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Training
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 25 1977

TELETYPE

APR 8 1977

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

GPO : 1976 O - 207-526

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

LOUISVILLE ARRANGE TO HAVE AN AUSA PRESENT AND PROMTLY INTERVIEW BAIRD FOR ALL DETAILS. ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COPIES OF ANY EVIDENCE HE HAS TO SUPPORT HIS ALLEGATION INCLUDING COPIES OF THE ALLEGED TAPES. IF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY HAS ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER HAVE IT CONTACT MR. KEUCH OF THE DEPARTMENT DIRECT.

SUTEL RESULTS FOLLOWED BY LHM.

NOTE: Congressman M. G. Snyder Kentucky, recently revealed he had received letter from an unnamed police officer who made allegation he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to kill King. The unnamed police officer reportedly made tapes of offer, one of which was stolen, and the other turned over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Subsequent newspaper accounts identified unnamed officer as Clifton E. Baird.

Legal Counsel Division requested authority from Department to interview Baird.

On 3/25/77, at about 4:30 p.m. Mr. Keuch of the Department, mentioned above, telephonically advised SA Paul Daly of the Legal Counsel Division that the Attorney General authorized the FBI to interview Baird in the presence of an AUSA. SAC, Louisville telephonically advised 3/25/77.

BT

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

0-70 (Rev. 3-28-72)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-108

FILE Copy

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
CRIMINAL DIVISION

DATE: April 4, 1977
ATTN: Mr. Robert L. Keuch

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____ (your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of ~~the report of Special Agent an LHM~~ dated 3/30/77 at Louisville, Kentucky.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☒ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. (1)

1 - Civil Rights Division (encl. 1)
1 - Office of Professional Responsibility, U.S.D.J. (encl. 1)

SEE ATTACHED NOTE

FBI/DOJ

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Assistant Attorney General
CRIMINAL DIVISION

cc - CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, U.S.D.J.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

The files at our Louisville Office of the FBI and at FBI Headquarters contain no reference to the receipt of any complaint from MR. BAIRD regarding alleged threats. The only reference to MR. BAIRD in these files is that he was the subject of a civil rights brutality complaint in 1963. A preliminary civil rights investigation was conducted, and the results were furnished to the Civil Rights Division and no additional federal action resulted.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

0-70 (Rev. 3-28-72)
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GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

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1 - Office of Professional Responsibility, U.S.D.J. (encl. 1)

SEE ATTACHED NOTE

FBI/DOJ

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Assistant Attorney General
CRIMINAL DIVISION

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OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, U.S.D.J.

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

44-38861-6207
6208

CHANGED TO 62-117290-209X
209X4

JUL 20 1978
CMK/NK

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-30 (Rev. 1-27-70)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date 4/1/77

TO : Director, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

MURKIN

Re telephone call from Supervisor HAL HELTERHOFF, FBIHQ, to Memphis, 3/30/77.

On 3/31/77, Acting Chief JOHN HOLT, Memphis Police Department, advised SA BURL F. JOHNSON that any information or reports furnished to the FBI by the Memphis Police Department in conjunction with captioned case may be released to the House Select Committee on Assassinations without the expressed consent of the Memphis Police Department.

-6208

(2 - Bureau
1 - Memphis
RHB:ln
(3)

REC-126

13

APR 4 1977

6208

Approved: JHT/RH

Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)

Per _____

84 APR 15 1977

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) DATE: 4/11/77

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of a letter to the Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, from RUFUS J. HARPOM, Spokane, Washington.

For the information of the Bureau, the original of this letter was provided the Memphis Division of the FBI by a representative of the Homicide Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department.

UACB, no action is contemplated by the Memphis Division regarding enclosed letter.

ENCLOSURE

EX-103

REC-26 44-38861-629

2 - Bureau (Encs. 1)
1 - Memphis

BLP:jap
(3)

Airtel to Seattle
HW 4/22/77

APR 13 1977

MAY 4 1977

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE

APR 18 11 52 AM '77

F. B. I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

my friends I am writing to tell you that Earl Ray didnt kill lukking the one that lukking is one that shots from bath room the told Ray go down there he wouldnt have do thing the take of him when we go up in to bathe room the ones that shote lukking is one reason up in bath room so Earl Ray should be free did you ever look in bath room for fruits fitin Earl Ray was not in bath room the one shote lukking was in bath room so you work on that of bath room

I hope you fine ones that shot from Bathe room

I am as ever your friend

Mr Rufus J Hayson

Box 1721. 99210

Spokane wash

44-38861-6209

ENCLOSURE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

0-70 (Rev. 3-28-72)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch

DATE: 4/18/77

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____ (your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of ~~the report of Special Agent~~ a "Washington Star - News" article dated 4/13/77 at Washington, D. C., one copy of a letter with enclosure from Myron Billett dated 10/20/74, and one copy of a letter from SAC, Cincinnati dated 12/18/74.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

44-38861

G. ☒ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

NOT RECORDED
APR 20 1977

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. - 4

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

1 - Office of Professional Responsibility
USDJ

File/6

5 ENCLOSURE

84 APR 20 1977

FBI/DOJ

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Attn: Mr. Robert L. Keuch

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of a newspaper article which appeared in the "Washington Star - News."

92-0-3804 The files of FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C., reflect that one Myron Billett communicated with the FBI in October of 1974, and copies of his correspondence are also enclosed.
92-0-3834 Also enclosed is a copy of a letter from our Cincinnati Office of the FBI dated 12/18/74.

Also for your information, our files reflect that one Myron Thomas Billett, dob [redacted] was investigated in 1953 for a possible violation of the Selective Service Act of 1948.
25-378568 Billett had possession of a Selective Service registration certificate in the name of another individual and the United States Attorney's Office in East St. Louis, Illinois, declined prosecution of Billett for violation of the Selective Service Act.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

0-19 (Rev. 5-12-76)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Gen. Inv. 44
Ident. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Rec. Mgnt. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____
Lawn

Inmate Tells of FBI, CIA Offer in King's Death

COLUMBUS (UPI) — An inmate at the Ohio Penitentiary Reception and Treatment Center here said the FBI and CIA agents offered former Mafia kingpin Carlo Gambino $1 million to kill Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, but Gambino rejected the offer, it was reported yesterday.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers, in a copyrighted story by William Pillar, said Myron Billett, 52, will be questioned by Ed Evans, chief investigator for the House assassinations committee in Washington.

The newspapers said Billett, alias Paul Buccilli, set up a secret meeting in January 1968 at a hideaway motel in Apalachin, N.Y., between the FBI and CIA agents and Gambino, who has since died.

Gambino rejected the offer and later passed the word that no Mafia family would accept the offer to kill King, Billett said.

Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the assassinations committee, said he ordered Evans to investigate the allegations after Scripps-Howard newspapers asked Stokes if a letter sent by Billett to House Speaker Thomas O'Neill had been turned over to the committee.

O'Neill's office told the newspapers that the letter had not been located.

"We will be in touch with Billett to check out his story," said Evans.

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News A-5
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date 4/13/77

0-70 sent to AAG, Criminal Division
attention Mr Robert L. Keuch
1- AAG, Civil Rights Division
1- Office of Professional Responsibility, USDJ
HNH: sds 4-18-77

44-38861-

FBI/DOJ

ENCLOSURE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED-F.B.I.

APR 14 12 15 PM '77

WHITE-COLLAR
CRIMES SECTION
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F.B.I.
APR 14 10 41 AM 1977

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Oct. 20,74.

Dear Sir;

I am writting this letter to you,Because I have no pretense of ever getting out of Chillicothe alive. I am writting my life story, Some of it you have on files, alot you dont, Some of it will shock you as I have alway been a little two bit punk. and that the way you was to think. it gave me a clear path to run my errand, of the Syndicate. it all started back in 43or 44 with my meeting with Ben Segal and Miss Hill, And go all the way up to the last few years with detail on Vincent Sqitante and Tony Accardo, With a hell of a lot more that could get me kill. But I want no interfered on this untill I noticefly you that I am done with the story. You will get one first before I moved on it.If some-happen to me, You can contact Mr. Charlie Hice at 5926 Cindy West Carrollton .Ohio. He will full you in with all the detail. I am not so mercenary , that I dont think that this story will made money, That is my main reason for writting it, and also this,? I have been nothing but a tool use. I was use first by Ben Segal;I was use by the Syndicate, And use in all the joints I been in. Well now it payback time Let see if they can take the fucking as well as I have, I am sending you a forward to this story, I want it understood that I am not talking untill I am finish with the story. Then I promise you I will talk I will tell you the whole mess, I am no nut as the record will show,at this stage of the game Iv wish I was;

Your Truly

Myron Billett I39-OII
Chillicothe Correctional Inst.
P.O.Box 5500
Chillicothe Ohio
45601

Paul Buccilli.

ENCLOSURE 44-38861-

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

W A S T E D Y E A R — An Autobiography of Crime

Within this book, I will attempt to explain what makes a man waste away his life in crime. I will recound the big double-cross that got racketeer Buggsy Segal killed; all that was behind the scene of his murder and why Buggsy took $600,000 from outside the mob and allowed naracotics racketeers to move into L.A. and the West Coast in general—and who ordered him "hit".

I will present another story yet untold of Carl Chessman, of his long stay on death row fighting to evade execution as the Red Light Bandit, and how Chessman was framed by the Mob and of Frank Buccilli's connection to all this.

I will tell you of the two coldest criminals I have ever known, Hitchcock and Smith, whose crimes and executions were written about by Truman Capote in his "fact-fiction" IN COLD BLOOD, and how Smith and Hitchcock actually laughed at the gallery.

Too, I will detail the death of a 17-year-old boy who hanged himself at Soledad prison rather than again submit himself to forced acts of homosexuality.

I will reveal the inside story of how the Syndicate moved into Denver and corrupted thirty-four policemen, the county sheriff and other mekbers of the city's administration.

Herein, too, you will find accounts of my thirty years as a criminal; my eleven years of imprisonment in four of the most nortorious joints in the country—Walla Walla, Washington; Carson City, Nevada; SanQuentin, California; and Lansing,Kansas prison. There will also be highlights of association with Warden Clinton Duffy of Quentin.

Recounted are my efforts to get into the Cuban affair and communication with President John F. Kennedy and official replies from his secretary Mr. Lincoln.

It should be immediately obvious that I am no professional writer and I make no such pretense. I hope to give you cold and hard facts of my life of crime in the simple words at my command. The truths of my statements are documented in police and FBI records across the nation—yet many of these facts have never been in public print, plus other details I know only because I was there!

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Furthermore, this is a story of the Syndicate; of racketeer Segal; of how I brought the big bookie racket out of Philly at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club and operated it for the ~~Syndic~~ Syndicate for two years—a $100,000 a year income.

I will connect Jack Ruby with the Syndicate and tell how he was talked into killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

Lastly, I will expose my own connections with the narcotics rackets in L.A. and tell how the narcotics business was operated by Vincent Sqitante and Tony Accardo, and how I played decoy with the L.A. FBI to set up operations so there would be no repercussions.

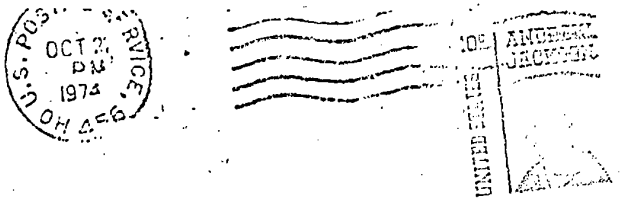
This is my story.

—Myron Billett (Paul Buccilli)

Author Note

Due to glaucoma, doctor give this writer a month or a year at the most, SO in no way is the writer worried about repercussions from the Synidicate, Death would be a God send.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Old P.O.Bg.
I2 th & Pa. Ave
Washington D.C.

44-38861-

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Myron Billett I39-OII
Chillicothe Correctional Inst
v P.O.Box 5500
Chillicothe Ohio 4560I

44-38861

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 12/18/74

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (92-1573)(C)

SUBJECT: CHANGED
MYRON THOMAS BILLETT, Aka.,
Myron Billett,
Paul Buccilli
139-011 Chillicothe Correctional Institution
Chillicothe, Ohio
AR

Title marked changed to show the complete true name of subject as MYRON THOMAS BILLETT and alias of PAUL BUCCILLI. Title previously listed as "MYRON BILLETT, 139-011 Chillicothe Correctional Institution, Chillicothe, Ohio".

Re WFO let to the Bureau, 10/29/74.

On 11/19/74, Mr. ADRIAN MOORE, Records Clerk, Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI), Chillicothe, Ohio, advised that captioned individual was currently an inmate. He advised that he was unable to locate this individual's file and presumed that some of the officials may have the file on review.

On 12/12/74, Mr. MOORE made available the CCI File for captioned individual. This file was reviewed and found to contain the following information:

Complete name of individual is MYRON THOMAS BILLETT CCI #139-011, also known as PAUL BUCCILLI. He was received at Chillicothe Reception Center on 5/15/74, from Hamilton County on a sentence of 6 to 25 years for armed robbery to run concurrently with manslaughter first degree. He was transferred from the Chillicothe Reception Center to CCI on 7/8/74. He is described as a white male, DOB [redacted] POB La Granee, Oregon, citizenship U. S., marital status single, religion Catholic, FBI [redacted], SSAN [redacted] height 5'8", weight 149 lbs., hair gray, eyes blue, tattoos, left forearm German sign. Acquaintances, NETTIE FREDERICKS, 154 S. Detroit, Dayton, Ohio; WILLARD DANIS, Box 226, Houston, Texas.

2-Bureau
1-Los Angeles (Info)
1-WFO (Info)
1-Cincinnati

ENCLOSURE 44-38861

RJB:mjb (7)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-02

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His records indicate a physical exam on 5/15/74, the results of which indicates complete blindness in left eye, prostrate and enlarged and emphysema.

The file contained results of psychiatric examination of 6/13/74, which indicates individual has above average intelligence. This indicates personality test shows possibility of moderate personality disorganization and signs of possible mild organic brain dysfunction, physical discomfort, tension, depression, hostility, dependent interpersonal relationship, poor work and hostility towards women. The file further indicates that BILLETT is a "loner" type who feels emotionally, socially, and sexually inadequate to a point of being devoid of meaningful involvement in life. The exam indicates he is a passive-dependent individual who harbors a great deal of hostility and who internalizes hostility to the point of suffering psychophysical ailments. He is also described as being very insecure.

Prior employment listed for BILLETT, 1969-1970 roofing company, Acme Kansas; April, 1970, to February, 1971, downtown apartment center, 330 E. 5th St., Cincinnati, Ohio, (caretaker); 3/71, to 2/72, Salvation Army Center, 616 Jackson Milwaukee, Wisconsin; 2/72, to 4/73, Kellogg Seed Company, 812 Florida St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Common law wife, EDNA ROSEBURG, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The file indicates that BILLETT has used the alias of PAUL BUCCILLI since 1969, and the file contains a detainer from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin authorities.

In view of statements concerning subject's diagnosis in his file, no further action being taken by the Cincinnati Division and this matter is being closed.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-365 (Rev. 11-27-74)

F B I

Date: 3/22/77

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

From: SAC, ~~CHARLOTTE (44-1365)~~(RUC)

ATTENTION:
[X] GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
[X] CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
[ ] CRIMINAL SECTION
[ ] INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

Subject: MURKIN

[X] CR [ ] EL [ ] DIH [ ] CRA-64
[ ] PA [ ] PE [ ] PF [ ] E
[ ] DAMV [ ] DAMV-FR [ ] CAA
[ ] AP [ ] IWFC [ ] CWAA [ ] FI
[ ] EID [ ] Bomb Threats [ ] Extremist Matters
[ ] White Hate [ ] Black

Summary of Complaint:

Re Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 1/28/77.

OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, has been in telephonic contact with Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE at Durham, North Carolina, operator of the Moore Publishing Company, to sell a manuscript to GRACE by MOORE in which MOORE states he identified assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination.

INDICES: [ ] Negative [ ] See Summary

ACTION: UACB:

[X] No further action being taken and
[X] LHM enclosed
[ ] FD-376 (Enc. to LHM)
[ ] LHM being submitted
[ ] Report being submitted
[ ] Preliminary investigation instituted
[ ] Limited investigation instituted
[ ] Investigation continuing

[ ] Copy to: [ ] USA _____
[ ] Secret Service _____
[ ] ATF _____

3-Bureau (Encs. 5)
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Encs. 2)
1-San Juan (Info.) (Enc. 1)
1-Charlotte
CSM:lct
(7)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CE 44-1365

ADMINISTRATIVE:

By teletype to the Bureau, dated 1/28/77, Memphis advised the OTIS MOORE referred to appears to be identical with OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE, born [redacted] at Elaine, Arkansas, a white male, Army serial number RA 18378[redacted], SSAN [redacted] who on 5/15/76, in part related that in 1965, while drinking in a bar in Temple, Texas, MOORE was engaged in conversation by two unknown males who offered MOORE $50,000.00 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. One of those present was identified by MOORE as "a multi-millionaire lawyer from Dallas".

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [X] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date 4/8/77

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Ext. Affairs
Fin. & Pers.
Gen. Inv.
Ident.
Intell.
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgt.
S. & T. Serv.
Spec. Inv.
Training
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Louisville airtel to the Bureau dated 3/30/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two newspaper articles from "The Kentucky Messenger" dated 3/30/77, published at Mayfield, Kentucky, and "The Kentucky Post" dated 3/31/77, published at Covington, Kentucky, setting forth details concerning recent reported allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, that he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

It is noted no information is contained in the files of the Louisville Division substantiating allegations reported in the above newspapers.

44-38861-[illegible]

REC-108

APR 19 1977

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
2 - Louisville

CRH:lmt
(4)

0-[illegible] Criminal Division and Civil Rights Division
4-[illegible]-77 [illegible]
[illegible] Congressional Inquiry Unit
see file copy

6 - [illegible]
Helt[illegible]

Approved: SSC/HBL Transmitted (Number) (Time) Per

84 APR 21 1977

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Ces 4/10

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F B I

APR 11 8 20 AM 1977

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
[illegible] J.E.H.

APR 19 8 10 PM '77

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

X

4/8/77

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2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
2 - Louisville

CRH:lmt
(4)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-350 (Rev.-11-11-75)

Ex-cop tells of FBI threats

BY JIM EBERLE
Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON: Clifton E. Baird, the retired Louisville policeman who claims he was asked to kill Dr. Martin Luther King jr. in the mid-1960s, says he was threatened by FBI agents and others he did not know.

His charge is contained in a letter to Rep. M. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., who read Baird's account of the alleged conspiracy on the House floor, Wednesday.

The letter Snyder read from had 18 blank spaces, including the identity of Baird, the police department he once worked for, the names of three FBI agents and six Louisville policeman and information relating to an investigation of Baird in Owensboro, his hometown.

The House later voted 230 to 181, with Snyder's support, to permit the House Assassination Committee to continue its investigation of the assassinations of King and former President John F. Kennedy.

Snyder said several members credited his reading of the letter with helping the committee remain in existence. Snyder himself had voted against the committee in February, before he received the letter from Baird.

There was scattered applause for Snyder when he finished his statement by saying if the allegations were true they should be investigated and if they're not true the FBI and other law enforcement agencies accused should be exonerated.

Delegate Walter Fauntroy, D-D.C., a member of the committee, characterized the letter as on of "several leads were we're pursuing that suggest there was a plot or plots to assassinate Martin Luther King prior to April 1968."

Baird said in the letter he was "threatened" on three different occasions by FBI agents and a month before the King killing "I was threatened seven or eight times by people I did not know."

Baird's letter also suggests there were more than three FBI agents allegedly involved in the $500,000 offer to Baird to kill the civil rights leader.

Baird listed three FBI agents by name but he said there were "others that I did not know." He also identified six members of the Louisville police department, the force he served on for 27 years.

Snyder did not identify the policemen but he did read Baird's description of the rank or position they held in the department: chief of detectives, captain, lieutanent, officer, lieutanent in the homocide bureau and the president of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Four of the six policemen contacted by Scripps Howard Newspapers denied any knowledge of a plot to kill King.

Baird said the offer, which he recorded on tape, came at a time when he was under "intense investigation" by police and the FBI. Scripps-Howard Newspapers quoted sources close to the committee as saying the alleged conspirators were trying to blackmail Baird into participating because he was suspected of being involved in a dynamite ring in Owensboro, his hometown.

Baird said in the letter that when he

The Kentucky Post
March 31, 1977

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

left the force he went to [illegible] a reporter for United Press International. He said the reporter did not keep the appointment to hear the tapes. He said he next contacted James Earl Ray's attorneys, who referred him to their investigator in Frederick, Md. Ray pleaded guilty to killing King and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

The investigator, Baird said, wanted to know "what business it was of mine and where I was going to hide if I tried to do anything with the tapes."

Snyder told his colleagues on the floor he normally doesn't discuss his mail with anyone. But he said he met with the letter writer and got his approval to use the letter with the deletions.

"I was not and am not an admirer of Dr. Martin Luther King's tactics or philosophy," said Snyder. But he said the allegations should be investigated.

Prior to the final vote, the House defeated an amendment that would have taken the body into secret session to hear in detail what the committee had come up with.

Snyder voted for the secret session but said he would not have "filled in" the blanks in the letter even in secret sessions. He said that would be up to the committee, which has a copy of the letter without blanks, to decide.

The committee also has Baird's tape. And Snyder said he understood the age of the tape had been verified as being made in about 1965 when the conversation allegedly occurred.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-350 (Rev. 11-11-75)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Man Claiming Knowledge Of King Plot Questioned

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) —Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says the House assassinations committee has "interrogated" for a second time a man who claims knowledge of an alleged plot by Louisville police and FBI agents to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Committee investigators questioned the man "in the past day or two" for nearly three hours, the congressman said Tuesday.

Snyder said he was told by committee investigators that the man "didn't break down" during the interrogation and "they are taking the report seriously — that's what they tell me."

Since he first disclosed two weeks ago that he had been approached by the retired police officer, Snyder has refused to identify him.

However, Mary Baird, 44, of Louisville, confirmed that it was her husband, Clifton Baird, 50, who told Snyder of the alleged plot. She confirmed it was her husband after The Kentucky Post, quoting unnamed sources, identified him.

Mrs. Baird has refused to talk to reporters for a week. Baird himself has been unavailable for comment.

Snyder has refused to confirm the Louisville police department was the one named by Baird. However, Snyder quoted a letter from the man as saying the allegations involved a police department from which he retired several years ago. Baird retired from the Louisville Police Department in 1975 after 27 years service.

The Kentucky Messenger
March 30, 1977

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Snyder said "several prominent members" of the police department implicated by Baird were named in the allegation.

"I determined in my mind that he was not a kook and that he was a legitimate type citizen," Snyder said. "I have talked to some members of the committee and some of the staff people who have talked to him in the past day or two."

He said he has no idea where Baird is or whether he has been told not to talk with reporters.

U. S. Atty. George Long has told the Justice Department about the allegations, but no federal investigation has been ordered.

Snyder said he was contacted in late February by a man who claimed that at least six police officers and several FBI agents were involved in the alleged plot. Snyder said he listened to a copy of a tape recording the man said he made when he allegedly was offered $500,000 while sitting in a car to kill the late Dr. King.

King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, and James Earl Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the murder.

Snyder said a letter from the man along with the tape recording are in the hands of the committee.

"It was pretty much inaudible," Snyder said of the copy of the tape he heard. "I heard some talk about King and money, enough to make me think that it needs to be looked into, that's all."

Snyder was against extending financing for the House Select Committee on Assassinations before the man told him of the alleged plot. But the congressman says he has changed his mind and wants the committee funded for two more years.

Mrs. Baird told The Associated Press last week that her husband told Snyder of the alleged plot because he "wanted to know why someone asked him" to kill the civil rights leader. She said it had been "bothering him."

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-350 (Rev. 11-11-75)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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The Kentucky Messenger
March 30, 1977

44-38861-6210

ENCLOSURE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-350 (Rev. 11-11-75)

Ex-cop tells of FBI threats

BY JIM EBERLE
Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

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The Kentucky Post
March 31, 1977

44-38861-6220

ENCLOSURE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) DATE: 4-15-77

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau's information are the following:

Envelope to Ms. ELLIE DYLAN, 3/24/77, containing card and newspaper clipping

Envelope to Ms. ELLIE DYLAN, 3/5/77, containing letter

Envelope to Ms. ELLIE DYLAN, 3/25/77, containing letter and xerox copy of newspaper clippings

Brown envelope to Ms. ELLIE DYLAN 2/24/77 containing letter and 4 photos (2 of JAMES EARL RAY)

ELLIE DYLAN is a well known "country Western style" disc jockey, broadcasting on a night time program over WMAQ radio station, Chicago.

WMAQ radio officials are aware of the Bureau's jurisdiction in various fields, including extortion. They have been advised that these letters do not indicate a violation and are being forwarded to the Bureau for information.

EX-108 REC 55 44-38861-6 & 11

No further action is being taken by the Chicago Office.

V-10 DE-40

ENCLOSURE

20 APR 19 1977

2-Bureau (Encl.14)
1-Chicago
TJG:SR
(3)

56 MAY 24 1977

5010-108-02

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

APR 18 11 04 AM 1977

FBI
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

(2)
TIC:SR
1-Chicago
2-Bureau(Encl.1a)

EX-103 SEC 92

Office:

No further action is being taken by the Chicago information.

They have been advised that these letters do not indicate jurisdiction in various fields, including extortion.

WMAQ radio officials are aware of the Bureau's over WMAQ radio station, Chicago.

EFFIE DYFAN is a well known "country Western style" disc jockey, broadcasting on a night time program containing letter and 4 photos (2 of JAMES HARL RAY)

Brown envelope to Ms. EFFIE DYFAN 2/24/77

Envelope to Ms. EFFIE DYFAN, 3/25/77, containing letter and xerox copy of newspaper clippings

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Enclosed for the Bureau's information are the following:

SUBJECT: MURKIN

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO(44-1114)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI(44-28891) DATE: 4-15-77

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Feb 24, 1977.

Dear Ellie,

I talked to you last night over the phone, and throught it would be best if i typed you a letter letting you know that the phone call was on the level and that i'am the Brother of James E. Ray.

I'am inclosing some pictures i took of my Brother in November 1975, i took these at the Nashville, Tenn. Prison.

Once per week when he was in Nashville, he was allowed a visit on the Prison yard, and i could bring lunch plus refreshments from a Resturant.

James looks kind of hard in these pictures, the reason was because it was freezing weather when i took these pictures.

You keep these pictures and do what you want to with them, i have been offered a few hundred dollars from different Book writers to get Pictures of my brother, but i have always refused.

I beleive i told you over the phone that i'am going down to visit my Brother march 8, i'll give him your message about corresponding with each other.

I'll also see him in late April, as i have in a Libel Suit against Time Magazine and a Book writer by the name of George McMillan, i filed a Suit for 2½ million dollars as Time Magazine ran exzerpts from McMillan Book, anyway a Trial will began on April 25, in Knoxville, Tenn.

Ellie i dont know if you're interested, actually i'am not sure that i can arrange it, but maybe in October or November of this year i could get you into visit my Brother.

You're still a young Lady and have already received a great deal of success, and imagine when you retire from WMAQ you will consider writing a book, if so you might find the above interesting along with the pictures.

I also mentioned to you on the phone about picking WMAQ up in Nashville, WMAQ comes in real plain all the way to Louisville, KY, then it's plain at times but also fades out at times.

I want to ask a favor of you, but dont feel that i'll be insulted if youre to busy to accept.

Anyday at your convience i would enjoy meeting you, either at the station or someplace for lunch, and i'am not referring to a date, i would just enjoy meeting and talking with you.

I live and work at the (Twin Orchard Co. Club) Long Grove, Ill. Tel.634-3800

Long Grove is so small that it don't have a Post Office, thats why i get my mail in Lake Zurich.

I'll close for now, please let me know by mail or phone if you receive these pictures as i realize how easy it it for something to get lost in the mail.

Sincerly

Jerry Ray.

P.S. You're the best thing that happened to Country Music since Loretta Lynn.

Also save this letter, as if in the future you would happen to write a book or use these pictures for any other commercial reason, then you couldnt be sued with this letter stating that the pictures were a gift to you.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Probers dub Ray's brother accomplice in King slaying

By DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) — James Earl Ray's younger brother, Jerry, actually is the mysterious "Raoul" whom Ray has blamed for the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., according to two independent investigators.

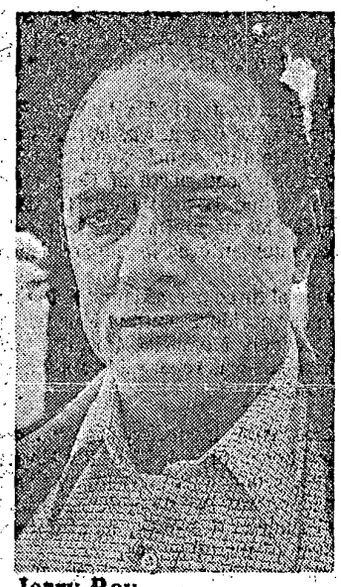
Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee prison after pleading guilty to the 1968 murder of King in Memphis. He later changed his story and asked for a new trial, saying he was the fall guy for a man identified only as Raoul, a Canadian who allegedly aided and financed him.

Jerry Ray, who works as a country club grounds keeper, has steadfastly maintained his brother is innocent. Jerry is alleged in some accounts of the killing to have had prior knowledge James was going to kill King. This too, the Lake Zurich resident has denied.

Jerry said James pleaded guilty to the murder charge because he was unhappy with his legal counsel. After having fired one lawyer and being faced with the prospect of being defended by a public defender, he felt the best way out was to plead guilty and ask for a new trial, Jerry said.

Ray has yet to get his new trial.

David S. Lifton and Jeff Cohen claim in an article in the April edition of New Times magazine that in his testimony Ray substituted the non-existent "Raoul" for his brother, Jerry.



Jerry Ray

The investigators' report comes just weeks before funds expire for the House Assassinations Committee.

Chief committee counsel Richard Sprague will interview Ray at Brushy Mountain Park prison this week.

Investigators have asked why Ray would not identify Raoul.

The authors say it was because Raoul actually was Jerry Ray, one of James Earl Ray's two brothers, who was in 1968 "a devoted lieutenant of Georgia lawyer Jesse B. Stoner, leader of the racist National States Rights Party."

A recent Justice Department investigation concluded James Earl Ray alone killed King, but noted Jerry Ray aided and abetted his brother after his escape from a Missouri prison, lied to the FBI about the extent and nature of his contacts with his brother and would, had the statute of limitations not expired, have been liable to prosecution.

In a related development, Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., who initially opposed establishment of the committee, says evidence he has received prompts a change of mind.

Snyder said over the weekend he relayed information to the committee about an alleged assassination conspiracy to kill King involving three FBI agents and "three or four police officers."

Snyder said a retired police officer wrote him last month outlining the alleged conspiracy and saying he was offered $500,000 to commit the murder.

Kups column

the Granada Theater.

NEW TIMES MAG IS BREAKING a story on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assassination, charging that James Earl Ray's brother accompanied him when he purchased the gun used in the killing. The brother, Jerry, a maintenance man, resides in Wheeling. . . . In response to a number of queries: Louie Prima, one of the musical greats of the day, is alive, but barely. He's been in a coma for the past 18 months in a New Orleans institution.

MUHAMMAD ALI, TRAINING AT HIS BERRIEN, MICH., farm, revealed in an interview with Gallery mag that he's 20 pounds overweight. He'll interrupt his training long enough to appear on the Oscar telecast next Monday as a presenter. . . . Bill Quateman showcases his new band and latest tune, "Night After Night," Saturday at the Ivanhoe, after which he's off on a long road tour. . . . Birthdaying: Karl Malden, Marcel Marceau, Lloyd Pettit and Bob Elson.

HUGH O'BRIAN IS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD of his cast in "The Cactus Flower" at Drury Lane East. Janet Carroll is a standout in her role as the dour nurse-turned-swinger, and Judith Ivey, Glenn Woertz, Tom Alderman, Rosalyn Alexander and Paul Barnes all complement O'Brian. . . . Dr. Irving Slott of Columbus Hospital and Carol Holmes set a July date for their marriage. . . . Mrs. Don (Rhoda) Mann, wife of the WBBM radio sales chief, is convalescing from surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. . . . And Bob Orben maintains he has the most patient wife in the world. "She's still holding the phone to talk to President Carter!"

Invalidation of the ... possible by the vote of Justice John Paul Stevens, who found the Ra...

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